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NOTE VERBALE DATED 17 OCTOBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF UZBEKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued on 14 October 1994 in Tashkent.

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan also has the honour to request that the text of this note verbale and its attachment be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement dated 14 October 1994 of the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of Uzbekistan

In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan there is earnest concern and indignation over the increasingly frequent accusations made recently by official authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan concerning the alleged "interference" of Uzbekistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and in particular the interference of the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan in the internal war of the conflicting forces in Afghanistan.

We resolutely reject this baseless slander against Uzbekistan and state that these allegations are nothing more than an attempt of certain forces in Afghanistan and beyond its borders to harm Uzbekistan's image in the eyes of the international community, its peace-making efforts, and to provoke the aggravation of the relations between the two neighbouring States and the further growth of tension in the region.

Uzbekistan has always expressed profound concern over the continuing armed confrontation and fratricidal war in Afghanistan, and has repeatedly reaffirmed its readiness to discuss with all interested States concrete measures which could facilitate the solution of the Afghan problem.

We have always maintained a firm and principled position regarding the need to find peaceful approaches to the solution of the problem of Afghanistan which exclude interference by any States in its internal affairs.

At the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, Uzbekistan came forward with the initiative of organizing in Tashkent a permanent seminar on problems of the regional security under the auspices of the United Nations.

A position of strict neutrality and non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan was expressed in the Joint Statement on Afghanistan made by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation on 8 February 1994.

Appeals by Uzbekistan for the necessity to involve all healthy forces of the region and the international community in the peaceful solution of the conflicts in Afghanistan were also made during the Tashkent seminar of CSCE in September 1994, despite the gross provocations when our Republic was yet the target of a crude and provocative accusation of armed interference in the internal affairs of that long-suffering country.

On 4 October 1994, at the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, Uzbekistan once again stated the inadmissibility of interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and the need to impose an embargo on the supply of weapons to the regional conflict zones.

We expect that the leaders of Afghanistan and the various political forces there will correctly assess the concern and the peacemaking role of Uzbekistan in the prevention of conflicts in the region and its efforts to develop good-neighbourly relations and all-round mutually beneficial cooperation with independent and sovereign Afghanistan in the interests of strengthening the spirit of mutual understanding and confidence in the region, will not in future permit intriguing by enemies of this spirit, both within the country and beyond its borders, will demonstrate genuine patriotic wisdom and, taking into consideration the grave consequences of the fratricidal war, will focus their efforts on achieving national reconciliation in the interests and for the benefit of the entire Afghan people.
